



The Baron Returns!

Valley Forge to host Steuben biographer for lecture, book signing

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – The Baron de Steuben made history at Valley Forge over 200 years ago when he whipped the Continental Army into shape and helped them win the American Revolution. Now Steuben is gaining new life through a biography by Paul Lockhart, a professor of history at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Lockhart, who is an expert in European History, will discuss his new book at Valley Forge National Historical Park on Oct. 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The Drillmaster of Valley Forge: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army,” talk will be followed by a question and answer session and a book signing. Lockhart’s book, the first biography of Steuben since 1937, gives a complete portrait of the military leader who was second only to Washington in making victory over the British possible.

“Von Steuben is a key figure in the story of the Valley Forge encampment,” said Valley Forge National Historical Park Superintendent Mike Caldwell, “and having reviewed Mr. Lockhart’s thoroughly researched and engaging book, we are happy to have an opportunity to share with the public this important new work.”

Lockhart writes about how Steuben’s experience in the Prussian army shaped the influence he had on the U.S. Armed Forces, an influence that continues to guide them today. Steuben was instrumental in creating West Point and writing the first official regulations of the American Army. The book also tells about the Baron’s life, including how he reinvented himself when he came to America, and sheds light on some little-known facts about this fascinating figure.

The lecture, hosted by the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau in partnership with Valley Forge National Historical Park and the Friends of Valley Forge Park, will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments. All events will be held in the Park’s Welcome Center where a special Steuben exhibit will also be on view.

The temporary display features objects that illustrate the Baron’s origins as a Prussian officer and his impact on the Continental Army at Valley Forge. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available at the Park’s Encampment Store.

“This event showcases our work with our partners to continue to offer programming that further enhances our understanding of the people and events of the American Revolution by connecting with scholars who mine this rich period in our history,” said Caldwell.

For more information and to register to attend the lecture, call 610.834.7991. To purchase the book, call 610.783.1074 or visit www.harpercollins.com. To find out more about events happening in the Valley Forge area, visit www.valleyforge.org.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park is a national icon of the American Revolution that serves as a place where visitors enjoy, understand, care for, and preserve America’s history and natural heritage. The Park offers an engaging, complete educational and recreational experience, providing an important piece of the American story in a beautiful, historical, preserved landscape.

About Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd. is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization that aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Bureau's web site at www.valleyforge.org serves visitors, residents, meeting planners and tour operators.

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